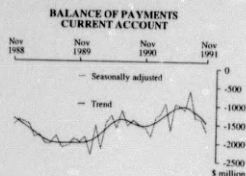


Statistics Weekly

Thursday, 9 January 1992

The week in statistics ...

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Current account worsens

The seasonally adjusted current account deficit for November 1991 rose \$319 million to \$1,692 million, the highest monthly deficit since December 1990.

The balance on goods and services recorded a deficit of \$243 million, up \$167 million on the October 1991 deficit. This result was due mainly to a turnaround of \$126 million from a surplus of \$98 million to a deficit of \$28 million in the balance on merchandise trade. Merchandise exports and imports rose 6 and 10 per cent respectively.

Increases were recorded in the deficits on net services, up 24 per cent to \$215 million; and net income, up 6 per cent to \$1,605 million. The net unrequited transfers surplus fell 27 per cent to \$156 million.

In original terms, merchandise exports rose \$218 million, or 5 per cent, to \$4,563 million. Rural exports rose \$129 million or 11 per cent, with the major contributors being wool, up \$71 million or 23 per cent (due mainly to increased volumes of greasy wool exports); meat, up \$54 million or 22 per cent; and cereals, up \$34 million or 24 per cent. Partly offsetting falls occurred in sugar and 'other' rural.

Non-rural exports rose \$89 million or 3 per cent. Major contributors to the rise were metal ores and minerals, up \$129 million (due mainly to increased volumes of uranium and iron ore exports); 'other' non-rural, up \$119 million; and gold, up \$43 million. Partly offsetting these rises were falls in coal, coke and briquettes, down \$138 million (due mainly to decreased volumes); and 'other' mineral fuels, down \$57 million.

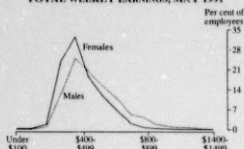
Merchandise imports fell \$85 million or 2 per cent in original terms. Major falls were recorded in 'other' transport equipment, down \$90 million or 63 per cent; 'other' manufactures, down \$78 million or 8 per cent; and fuels down \$55 million or 20 per cent. Substantially offsetting these falls was a rise of \$192 million in civil aircraft imports (due to import of two Qantas aircraft valued at \$270 million and two Australian Airlines aircraft valued at \$123 million, compared with two aircraft valued at \$201 million imported by Qantas in October).

In original terms, the current account deficit for the period July to November 1991 was \$7,262 million, down \$1,184 million on the deficit for July to November 1990.

BALANCE OF PAYMENTS, CURRENT ACCOUNT
\$ million

| | October 1991 | | November 1991 | |
|------------------------------|--------------|---------------------|---------------|---------------------|
| | Original | Seasonally adjusted | Original | Seasonally adjusted |
| Balance on merchandise trade | -353 | 98 | -50 | -28 |
| Net services | -289 | -174 | -123 | -215 |
| Net income | -1,466 | -1,511 | -1,569 | -1,605 |
| Net unrequited transfers | 239 | 214 | 186 | 156 |
| Balance on current account | -1,869 | -1,373 | -1,556 | -1,692 |

TOTAL WEEKLY EARNINGS, MAY 1991



Over-award and overtime pay falls

Over-award and overtime pay both declined in the 12 months to May 1991.

Full-time adult non-manual males earned, on average, \$11 per week over-award pay in May 1991. The corresponding figure in May 1990 was \$13. Female full-time adult non-manual employees also showed a slight fall in over-award pay, earning \$6.70 per week in May 1991, down from \$6.90 in May 1990.

Overtime pay also fell, with the decrease again being greater for males. Overtime pay for full time adult non-manual males fell from \$60.30 per week in May 1990 to \$55.70 per week in May 1991. For females, it fell from \$12 per week in May 1990 to \$11.60 per week in May 1991.

Private sector full-time adult non-manual employees earned approximately twice the amount of overtime pay as their public sector equivalents. Private sector males on average were paid for 3.1 hours of overtime while public sector males were paid for 1.6 hours. Similarly, females were paid for 0.7 hours of overtime in the private sector and 0.4 hours in the public sector.

The survey found that 'award pay' increased as a percentage of total weekly earnings due to the falls in overtime and over-award pay. For full-time adult non-manual males, award pay contributed 87.5 per cent of total weekly earnings, while for females this figure was 95.9 per cent. The difference was mainly due to the greater amount of overtime worked by males.

In May 1991, average weekly total earnings for full-time adult non-manual employees was \$596.90 for males and \$498.50 for females (compared with May 1990 earnings of \$574.80 and \$472.80 respectively).

COMPOSITION OF AVERAGE EARNINGS, MAY 1991

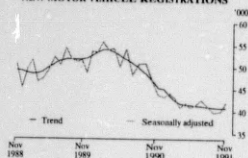
Full-time adult non-manual employees Dollars

| Average earnings per week | Males | Females | Persons |
|----------------------------------|--------|---------|---------|
| Ordinary time earnings | 541.20 | 486.90 | 521.60 |
| Award or agreed base rate of pay | 522.20 | 478.20 | 506.30 |
| Payment by measured result | 8.00 | 1.90 | 5.80 |
| Over-award pay | 11.00 | 6.70 | 9.40 |
| Overtime earnings | 55.70 | 11.60 | 39.80 |
| Total earnings | 596.90 | 498.50 | 561.40 |

The graph at left shows the distributions of total weekly earnings for full-time adult male and female non-manual employees.

For further information, order the publication *Distribution and Composition of Employee Earnings and Hours, Australia, Preliminary (6305.0)*, or contact Regina Camara on (06) 252 5325.

NEW MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATIONS



Improved car sales halt slide in total vehicle registrations

The trend estimate for total new motor vehicle registrations for November 1991 showed negligible change from October (from 40,809 to 40,810). This followed falls in each of the previous six months of between 0.3 and 0.4 per cent.

Car and station wagon registrations increased by 0.2 per cent in November to 34,598 vehicles while 'other' vehicles fell by 1.1 per cent to 6,212. It was the second successive increase in the trend for cars and station wagons, while the 'other vehicle' category continued the steady decline which began almost two years ago.

In seasonally adjusted terms, total new motor vehicle registrations rose by 5.2 per cent to 42,074 in November 1991, while unadjusted registrations fell by 2.7 per cent to 41,815 vehicles. Unadjusted car and station wagon registrations decreased by 2.6 per cent to 35,369, while 'other' vehicles fell by 3.0 per cent to 6,446.

For further information, order the publication *Registrations of New Motor Vehicles, Australia, Preliminary (9301.0)*, or contact Kevin Yeaton on (06) 252 6255.

Average earnings resume growth

Final estimates have confirmed that average weekly ordinary time earnings rose by 1.2 per cent between May and August 1991 for full-time adult persons. The dollar amounts were \$560.80 in May and \$567.70 in August.

The result followed a decline of 0.6 per cent in average weekly ordinary time earnings in the three months to May.

The increase in ordinary time earnings for full-time adult males was 1.3 per cent (to \$599.50) while full-time adult females showed an increase of 1.2 per cent (to \$506.40).

AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS, AUGUST 1991

Full-time adult ordinary time earnings

| | Weekly earnings (\$) | | | Percentage change in 'Persons' from | |
|------------------------------|----------------------|---------|---------|-------------------------------------|-------------|
| | Males | Females | Persons | May 1991 | August 1990 |
| | | | | | |
| New South Wales | 616.70 | 514.50 | 581.50 | 2.5 | 5.1 |
| Victoria | 596.90 | 511.60 | 567.40 | 0.6 | 4.3 |
| Queensland | 560.10 | 469.50 | 530.40 | -0.3 | 4.3 |
| South Australia | 569.80 | 510.20 | 550.90 | 0.8 | 5.6 |
| Western Australia | 619.80 | 506.60 | 580.10 | 1.1 | 6.9 |
| Tasmania | 576.90 | 486.20 | 547.70 | 2.1 | 4.1 |
| Northern Territory | 632.90 | 523.10 | 589.30 | 1.7 | 6.9 |
| Australian Capital Territory | 694.30 | 558.30 | 640.50 | 1.6 | 4.9 |
| Australia | 599.50 | 506.40 | 567.70 | 1.2 | 4.9 |

Average weekly ordinary time earnings for the public sector for Australia showed a 1.0 per cent increase for full-time adults to \$601.50, up from \$595.70 in May 1991. The private sector showed an increase of 1.5 per cent to \$549.90, up from \$541.70 in May 1991 for the same category of employees.

Average weekly total earnings for full-time adult persons increased by 0.9 per cent to \$596.80 during the quarter, producing an increase of 3.7 per cent since August 1990.

The estimates were affected by the flow through of the April 1991 National Wage Case and by changes in the composition of the labour force.

For further information, order the publication *Average Weekly Earnings, States and Australia* (6302.0), or contact Mick Atkinson (06) 252 6571.

Productivity growth stalled in 1989-90

Market sector multifactor productivity (MFP) increased by just 0.1 per cent in 1989-90. This is in marked contrast to the very strong growth of 2.5 per cent recorded in 1988-89. In 1989-90, strong growth in gross product of 4.2 per cent was almost matched by 4.1 per cent growth in total labour and capital input. Growth of 4.8 per cent in hours worked was the major contributor to the strong growth in the inputs.

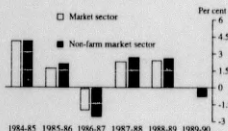
Non-farm market sector MFP declined by 0.8 per cent in 1989-90. Although gross product grew at basically the same rate as the whole market sector, that is 4.0 per cent, the lower productivity estimate was caused by non-farm market sector hours worked growing at a stronger rate (5.6%) compared with the market sector (4.8%).

More detailed information regarding how multifactor productivity is measured can be found in *Occasional Paper: Estimates of Multifactor Productivity, Australia* (5233.0).

PRODUCTIVITY AND RELATED MEASURES
Percentage change
1988-89 to 1989-90

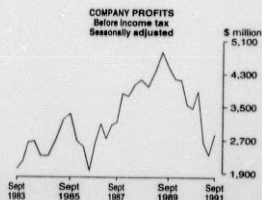
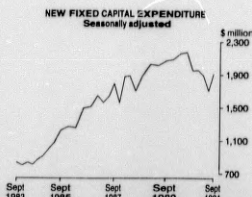
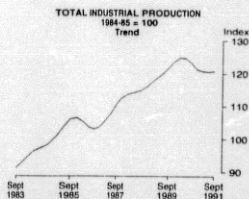
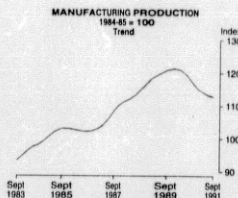
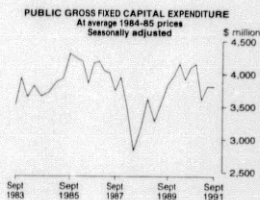
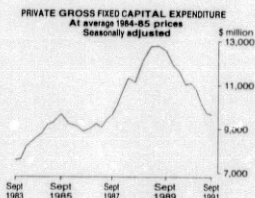
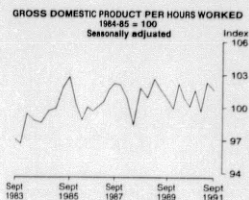
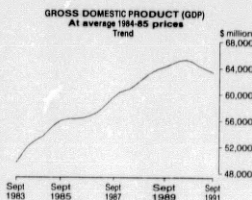
| | Market sector | Non-farm market sector |
|--------------------------------|---------------|------------------------|
| Gross product | 4.2 | 4.0 |
| Total labour and capital input | 4.1 | 4.7 |
| Hours worked | 4.8 | 5.6 |
| Capital stock | 3.0 | 3.2 |
| Multifactor productivity | 0.1 | -0.8 |

MULTIFACTOR PRODUCTIVITY
Annual change

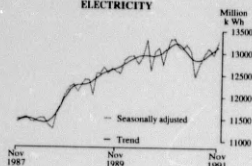


Australian perspectives

Australian perspectives is an occasional series of selected graphs. The series displayed illustrate the latest published data.



ELECTRICITY



Manufacturing in November ...

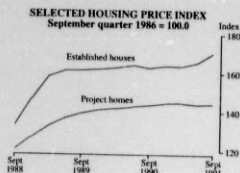
The publication *Manufacturing Production, Australia, Preliminary* (8301.0) contains up-to-date time series data on the production of twenty-seven major indicators of production (twenty-five seasonally adjusted). The indicator commodities have been selected to give a broad industry representation of the manufacturing sector and are part of a much larger range of commodity items published in the series of ten *Manufacturing Production Bulletins*.

In the table below, the 'previous year' column is a generally more reliable guide to trends, but should be read in conjunction with the more detailed data presented in the monthly publications, as the production of manufacturing commodities can vary quite significantly on a month-to-month basis, even after seasonal adjustment.

MANUFACTURING PRODUCTION NOVEMBER 1991

Seasonally adjusted, percentage change

| Product | From previous month | From corresponding month of previous year |
|---|---------------------|---|
| Domestic refrigerators | 8.8 | 20.9 |
| Textile floor coverings | -5.5 | 2.3 |
| Woven cotton fabric (including towelling) | -19.2 | 2.3 |
| Electricity | 2.4 | 1.6 |
| Gas available for issue through mains | 5.8 | 1.4 |
| Wool yarn | 3.1 | 0.8 |
| Cigarettes and tobacco | 29.7 | 0.5 |
| Cotton yarn | -16.4 | 0.0 |
| Electric motors | 2.4 | -0.2 |
| Woven wool fabric (including blanketing) | 2.3 | -2.2 |
| Chocolate based confectionery | 8.2 | -2.3 |
| Other confectionery | 16.4 | -3.2 |
| Television sets | -9.0 | -3.5 |
| Woven man-made fibre fabric | -8.7 | -3.9 |
| Beer | 0.9 | -4.0 |
| Clay bricks | 3.0 | -4.2 |
| Blooms and slabs, from rolling and forging | 0.3 | -4.6 |
| Portland cement | -2.4 | -9.8 |
| Cars and station wagons | -0.8 | -11.1 |
| Domestic clothes washing machines | 4.1 | -14.0 |
| Sulphuric acid; oleum | -17.4 | -15.1 |
| Basic iron, spiegeleisen and sponge iron | -17.4 | -15.9 |
| Iron and steel ingots or in other primary forms | -22.8 | -27.6 |
| Motor vehicles for goods and materials | -27.2 | -28.0 |
| Petrol-rotary type lawn mowers | -12.0 | -28.4 |



Housing market moves at last

Prices of established houses increased significantly between the June and September quarters 1991 after eight successive quarters of either decline or marginal increase. The quarterly rise of 3.0 per cent in the index for established house prices was the highest recorded since March quarter 1989 (8.1%).

Canberra established house prices increased by 8.5 per cent over the quarter — the largest quarterly increase for Canberra since the inception of the series in December 1986. The rise in Canberra prices was almost twice as large as Melbourne, which was the next highest at 4.6 per cent. Adelaide was the only capital city to record a decrease (-1.3%).

Project home prices remained stable, with an increase of only 0.3 per cent in the September quarter. The price rise in Canberra of 4.6 per cent was significantly above the Australian average.

HOUSING PRICES, SEPTEMBER QUARTER 1991
Percentage change

| | Established houses | | Project homes | |
|--|-----------------------|---|-----------------------|---|
| | From previous quarter | From corresponding quarter of previous year | From previous quarter | From corresponding quarter of previous year |
| Sydney | 2.5 | 4.4 | 0.3 | 1.6 |
| Melbourne | 4.6 | 2.8 | -0.1 | -1.1 |
| Brisbane | 3.8 | 13.7 | 0.2 | 1.4 |
| Adelaide | -1.3 | 1.0 | 0.5 | 2.4 |
| Perth | 0.7 | -3.3 | 0.2 | -3.0 |
| Hobart | 0.5 | 9.5 | 0.6 | 4.9 |
| Darwin | 0.7 | 3.8 | 2.0 | 2.0 |
| Canberra | 8.5 | 17.4 | 4.6 | 8.8 |
| Weighted average of eight capital cities | 3.0 | 4.8 | 0.3 | 0.5 |

For further information, order the publication *House Price Indexes: Eight Capital Cities* (6416.0), or contact Ian Buchanan on (06) 252 5754.

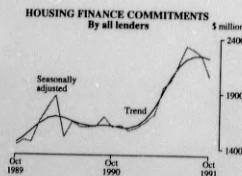
Home lending continues to slide

In October 1991, home lending recorded a seasonally adjusted decrease in the value of commitments for the third successive month. Lending commitments, excluding alterations and additions, were \$2048.6 million, a decrease of 8.3 per cent on September 1991 but an increase of 28.4 per cent on October 1990.

Seasonally adjusted, the largest decrease was lending for the purchase of established dwellings, down 8.9 per cent in October 1991 compared with September 1991. Commitments for the construction of dwellings were down 6.6 per cent and commitments for the purchase of newly erected dwellings were down 4.2 per cent.

In unadjusted terms, New South Wales was the only State to record a decrease in lending commitments, down 1.8 per cent on September 1991.

Continued ...



Trend estimates up to and including the latest month are now being released. These show that the steady climb in the trend series which began in January 1991 ended with the October decrease of 1.0 per cent.

HOUSING FINANCE COMMITMENTS, OCTOBER 1991

Seasonally adjusted
Excluding alterations and additions

| Type of lender | \$ million | Percentage change | |
|------------------------------|----------------|---------------------|---|
| | | From previous month | From corresponding month of previous year |
| All banks | 1,605.9 | -8.2 | 34.2 |
| Permanent building societies | 221.4 | -15.7 | 16.9 |
| Other lenders | 221.3 | -1.0 | 5.2 |
| <i>Total</i> | <i>2,048.6</i> | <i>-8.3</i> | <i>28.4</i> |

For further information, order the publication *Housing Finance for Owner Occupation, Australia* (5609.0), or contact Mark Dennis on (06) 252 7129 or John Carson on (06) 252 7110.

Manufacturers' prices show first annual fall

The price index of articles produced by manufacturing industry fell 1.0 per cent between October 1990 and October 1991, the first annual change recorded since the index was first compiled in July 1969.

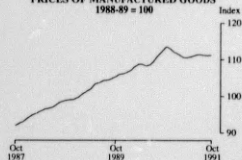
The index rose by 0.1 percent in the month of October 1991 due to higher prices for about half the items in the index. The main contributions to the increase came from higher prices for refined petroleum products.

These increases were partly offset by small price decreases for about one-third of the items in the index.

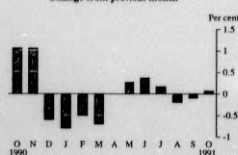
PRICES OF MANUFACTURED GOODS, OCTOBER 1991

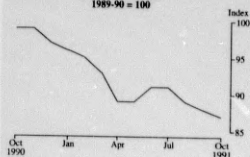
| Manufacturing sector | Percentage change | |
|----------------------------|---------------------|---|
| | From previous month | From corresponding month of previous year |
| Clothing and footwear | 0.3 | 3.7 |
| Chemical products | 0.1 | 2.7 |
| Transport equipment | 0.3 | 2.5 |
| Food and beverages | 0.0 | 2.1 |
| Fabricated metal products | 0.1 | 1.1 |
| Other industrial machinery | 0.1 | 0.6 |
| Basic metal products | -0.4 | -8.7 |
| Petroleum products | 2.1 | -27.3 |
| <i>Total manufacturing</i> | <i>0.1</i> | <i>-1.0</i> |

PRICES OF MANUFACTURED GOODS
1988-89 = 100



Change from previous month



EXPORT PRICES
1989-90 = 100

Further fall in export prices

Export prices fell 12.1 per cent over the year from October 1990 to October 1991. On a monthly basis, export prices fell by 1.1 per cent in October 1991 following a similar decline in the previous month and a 2.2 per cent fall in August.

Price falls were recorded in October for about half the items in the index, the largest being for wool, alumina and sugar.

These decreases were partly offset by price increases for about one-third of the items in the index. The only significant increases recorded were for gold and wheat.

EXPORT PRICES, OCTOBER 1991
Percentage change

| Commodity | From previous month | From corresponding month of previous year |
|--|---------------------|---|
| Live animals and animal products | 1.1 | 0.0 |
| Motor vehicles, aircraft and vessels | 0.0 | -2.0 |
| Vegetable products | 1.3 | -6.1 |
| Gold, diamonds and coin | 2.2 | -6.2 |
| Machinery and appliances | 0.0 | -6.9 |
| Prepared food stuffs | -2.2 | -7.4 |
| Mineral products | 0.0 | -11.4 |
| Products of chemicals or allied industries | -1.1 | -13.3 |
| Base metals | -1.3 | -21.2 |
| Wool and cotton fibres | -3.1 | -26.2 |
| All exports | -1.1 | -12.1 |

For further information, order the publication *Export Price Index, Australia* (6405.0), or contact Peter Cordy on (06) 252 5541.

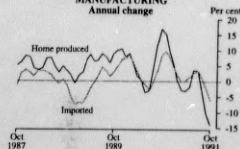
Materials prices: some relief for our manufacturers

Prices of materials used in manufacturing industries rose by 0.3 per cent between September and October 1991. Prices of home produced materials increased by 0.2 per cent while imported materials increased by 0.7 per cent.

The small October rise was only the third in 12 months and in the year to October prices decreased by 11.5 per cent, the largest annual decrease since July 1986. Home produced materials decreased by 14.1 per cent and imported materials decreased by 6.2 per cent over this period.

The increase in home produced materials in October was caused mainly by higher prices for crude petroleum and by smaller increases for numerous other components. These increases were partly offset by decreased prices for other components such as sheep and lambs.

The increase in imported materials was mainly caused by higher prices for crude petroleum and condensates and for 'other' chemicals.

PRICES OF MATERIALS USED IN
MANUFACTURING
Annual change

**PRICES OF MATERIALS USED IN MANUFACTURING
OCTOBER 1991
Percentage change**

| Source of material | From previous month | From corresponding month of previous year |
|--------------------|---------------------|---|
| Imported | 0.7 | -6.2 |
| Home produced | 0.2 | -14.1 |
| All manufacturing | 0.3 | -11.5 |

For further information, order the publication *Price Indexes of Materials Used in Manufacturing Industries, Australia* (6411.0), or contact Geoff Brown on (06) 252 5348.

Building material prices: annual rate of increase well down

The annual rate of price increase for building materials used in house building was 1.1 per cent in October 1991 compared with an annual rate of 4.8 per cent in October 1990. For materials used in other forms of building, the October 1991 annual rate of increase was 1.4 per cent down from the October 1990 annual rate of 6.0 per cent.

From September to October 1991, the prices of materials used in house building decreased by 0.1 per cent — the fourth slight decline in the last five months. The main decreases were for ready mixed concrete and structural timber.

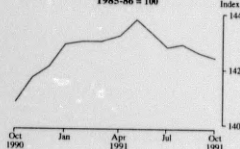
For materials used in other forms of building, prices increased 0.2 per cent between September and October with reinforcing steel bar, fabric and mesh recording the main increase.

**PRICES OF BUILDING MATERIALS, OCTOBER 1991
Percentage change**

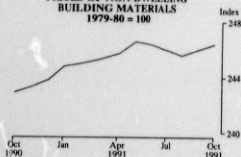
| City | House building | | Other than house building | |
|--|---------------------|---|---------------------------|---|
| | From previous month | From corresponding month of previous year | From previous month | From corresponding month of previous year |
| Sydney | 0.4 | 1.5 | 0.5 | 2.4 |
| Melbourne | -0.9 | 0.1 | -0.1 | 0.3 |
| Brisbane | 0.0 | 3.1 | 0.3 | 3.0 |
| Adelaide | -0.2 | 0.7 | -0.2 | 0.7 |
| Perth | 0.1 | 0.6 | 0.1 | 0.1 |
| Hobart | -0.3 | 3.1 | -0.3 | 3.0 |
| Weighted average of six State capitals | -0.1 | 1.1 | 0.2 | 1.4 |
| Darwin | — Not available — | | -0.1 | 3.8 |
| Canberra | 0.8 | 4.5 | 0.6 | 4.0 |

For further information, order the publications *Price Index of Materials Used in House Building, Six State Capital Cities and Canberra* (6408.0) and *Price Index of Materials Used in Building Other Than House Building, Eight Capital Cities* (6407.0), or contact Mark Dickson (06) 252 6198.

**PRICES OF HOUSE BUILDING MATERIALS
1985-86 = 100**



**PRICES OF NON-DWELLING BUILDING MATERIALS
1979-80 = 100**



Synopsis of articles, December 1991

5 December 1991

Fall in exports widens current account deficit

The seasonally adjusted current account deficit for October 1991 rose \$82 million to \$1,298 million, due to a fall of \$314 million in merchandise exports.

Increase in international liabilities

Net foreign liabilities at 30 September 1991 totalled \$182,282 million. This was an increase of \$4,987 million, or 2.8 per cent, on the position at the end of the June quarter, due mainly to increases in the level of both foreign equity investment and borrowing from abroad.

New capital expenditure flat — expectations marginally up

Private new capital expenditure for September quarter 1991 has remained virtually unchanged from the June quarter, seasonally adjusted at constant prices but businesses have revised marginally upwards their expectations of expenditure for the financial year 1991-92.

Prices of manufacturing materials down again

Over the year to September 1991, prices of manufacturing materials decreased by 7.7 per cent, the largest annual decrease since August 1986. Home produced materials decreased by 10.4 per cent and imported materials decreased by 2.5 per cent over this period.

Company profits rise from low base

Company profits before income tax increased by 21 per cent in seasonally adjusted terms in the September quarter 1991 when compared with the revised June quarter estimate.

Growth in housing approvals slows

The total number of dwelling units approved in October 1991 fell slightly by 2.4 per cent in seasonally adjusted terms while private sector house approvals rose marginally (by 1.3%) over the same period.

Building material prices — annual rates continue to fall

The annual rate of price increase for building materials used in house building was 1.3 per cent in September 1991 compared with an annual rate of 1.9 per cent in August 1991. For materials used in other forms of building, the September annual rate of increase was 1.7 per cent while the August annual rate was 2.4 per cent.

No annual change in prices of manufactured goods

The price index of articles produced by all manufacturing industries recorded no change between September 1990 and September 1991, the lowest annual change recorded since the index was first compiled (July 1969). The index fell by 0.1 per cent in the month of September 1991.

12 December 1991

Economy flat in September quarter

The three detailed measures of Australia's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) together indicate that the economy remained weak in the September quarter 1991.

Income-based GDP — down 0.3 per cent

Expenditure-based GDP — up 0.5 per cent

Production-based GDP — down 0.3 per cent

Stocks fall but manufacturers' sales recover

The value of stocks held by private businesses fell by almost 2 per cent between 30 June and 30 September 1991 after accounting for seasonal influences and price changes.

Births at 18-year high in 1990

The number of births registered in Australia in 1990 was 262,648 which represents a 5 per cent increase on 1989 registrations (250,853). This is the highest number of annual registrations of births recorded since 1972 (264,969).

Road freight movement increases

Total interstate road freight moved by major operators during September quarter 1991 was 6.6 per cent higher than in June quarter 1991.

Record chicken slaughterings

Monthly chicken slaughterings reached an all time high of 27.5 million in October 1991.

Duration of unemployment increasing

The average duration of unemployment has been gradually increasing since January 1991 following a decline since July 1990.

More change in our migrant mix as permanent departures increase

The number of permanent departures from Australia in 1990-91, at 31,130 was 12 per cent higher than in 1989-90 (27,860), while the number of settlers arriving (121,690) was about the same as in 1989-90 (121,230).

19 December 1991

November unemployment rate tops the 1982-83 peak

Large rises in the estimates of unemployed males and females, together with falls in employment, brought the November 1991 estimate of the unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted) to 10.5 per cent.

Survey finds big rise in newly discouraged jobseekers

There were 58,800 discouraged jobseekers amongst those who left the labour force in the year to April 1991 compared with 15,000 in the year to April 1988, the last time this survey was run.

Slight rise in industrial production

Industrial production rose by 0.2 per cent in the September quarter 1991 in seasonally adjusted constant price terms.

Moderate increase in retail trade

Growth in the trend estimate of turnover for retail and selected service establishments averaged 0.7 per cent for the three months ended October 1991.

Housing starts continue to improve

Total dwelling unit commencements rose for the second successive quarter in the September quarter 1991, in both original and seasonally adjusted terms.

Wine producers feel the squeeze

The total grapes crushed for the 1990-91 year by enterprises crushing over 400 tonnes was 521 thousand tonnes, a decrease of 10.7 per cent on the previous year.

New import price index

The Import Price Index has been substantially modified following completion of a comprehensive review — the index decreased by 0.6 per cent between August and September 1991.

Work profile of Australian families

An estimated 48 per cent of the nation's 4.5 million families had two or more members employed in June 1991 and a further 29 per cent had one member in employment.

Post-compulsory education growth continues

In May 1991, 1,903,600 people or 17 per cent of the population aged 15 to 64 were attending a school or tertiary educational institution, according to the latest annual figures on transition from education to work.

All the releases:**18 December 1991 to 7 January 1992****General**

Australian Harmonized Export Commodity Classification (Based on the Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System),
1 January 1992 replacement pages (1233.0; free)

Statistics Weekly, 19 December 1991 (1318.0; \$4.00)

Time Series Service — Manual, September Qtr 1991 (1336.0; free)

Australian Economic Indicators, December 1991 (1350.0; \$24.00)

Monthly Summary of Statistics, NSW, December 1991 (1305.1; \$13.50)

Monthly Summary of Statistics, Vic., December 1991 (1303.2; \$10.00)

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Economic Indicators, WA, December 1991 (1307.5; \$5.50)

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Tasmanian Statistical Indicators, December 1991 (1303.6; \$9.00)

Northern Territory Business Indicators, December 1991 (1307.7; \$4.00)

Australian Capital Territory Statistical Summary, 1992 (1307.8; \$17.00)

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Any suggestions for improvement to this publication should be addressed to:

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Census of Population and Housing

Census 86 — Aust.'s One Parent Families, (2511.0; \$12.50) — *new issue*

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Causes of Death, Aust., 1990 (3303.0; \$16.50)
Perinatal Deaths, Aust., 1990 (3304.0; \$14.50)
Deaths, Vic., 1990 (3312.2; \$14.00) — *new issue*
Deaths, Western Australia, 1990 (3312.5; \$14.00)
Demography, WA, 1990 (3311.5; \$25.00) — *new issue*
Demography, SA, 1990 (3311.4; \$25.00)

Social statistics

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National accounts, finance and foreign trade

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House Price Indexes: Eight Capital Cities, Sept. Qtr 1991 (6416.0; \$25.00)
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Viticulture, Aust., 1990-91 (7310.0; \$20.00) — *new issue*
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Summary of Crops, WA, 1990-91 Season (7330.5; \$20.00) — *new issue*

Secondary industry and distribution

Manufacturing Production, Aust., Nov. 1991, Preliminary (8301.0; \$10.00)
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Sales of Australian Wine and Brandy by Winemakers, November 1991 (8504.0; \$10.00)
Engineering Construction Activity, Aust., Sept. Qtr 1991 (8762.0; \$10.00)
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Building Approvals, Vic., November 1991 (8731.2; \$10.00)
 Dwelling Unit Commencements Reported by Approving Authorities,
 Vic., October 1991 (8741.2; \$10.00)
 Building Activity, Vic., September Qtr 1991 (8752.2; \$10.00)
 Building Approvals — Private Sector, Perth Statistical Division,
 November 1991 (8732.5; \$3.50)
 Tourist Accommodation, SA, September Qtr 1991 (8635.4; \$10.00)
 Building Approvals, SA, November 1991 (8731.4; \$10.00)
 Dwelling Unit Commencements Reported by Approving Authorities, SA,
 October 1991 (8741.4; \$10.00)
 Tourist Accommodation, Tas., September Qtr 1991 (8635.6; \$10.00)
 Building Approvals, NT, November 1991 (8731.7; \$7.00)
 Building Activity, NT, September Qtr 1991 (8752.7; \$8.00)

Transport

Registrations of New Motor Vehicles, Aust., November 1991, Preliminary
 (9301.0; \$10.00)
 Motor Vehicle Registrations, Aust., October 1991 (9303.0; \$10.00)
 Motor Vehicle Registrations, Vic., November 1991 (9303.2; \$10.00)
 Motor Vehicle Registrations, Qld, November 1991 (9303.3; \$10.50)
 Motor Vehicle Registrations, WA, September 1991 (9303.5; \$7.00)
 Motor Vehicle Registrations, Tas., November 1991 (9303.6; \$5.00)

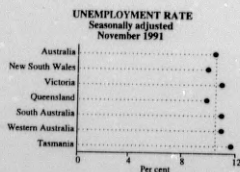
Calendar of key releases

Expected releases over the fortnight to 21 January 1992

- 8 Building Approvals, Australia, November 1991 (8731.0; \$13.00)
- 9 Job Vacancies and Overtime, Australia, November 1991
 (6354.0; \$12.00)
- 16 The Labour Force, Australia, December 1991, Preliminary
 (6202.0; \$16.00)
- 17 Retail Trade, Australia, November 1991 (8501.0; \$10.50)

The latest ...

Changes to key State indicators — consolidated to
 7 January 1992



| | NSW | Vic. | Qld | SA | WA | Tas. | NT | ACT | Aust. |
|--|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| — Percentage change from same period previous year — | | | | | | | | | |
| New capital expenditure (Mar. qtr 91)* | -8.4 | -22.7 | 0 | -8.9 | -7.0 | -16.9 | n.a. | n.a. | -10.2 |
| Retail turnover (Oct. 91) (trend estimate) | 4.9 | 3.4 | 3.9 | 5.7 | 7.0 | 3.4 | n.a. | 13.0 | 4.9 |
| New motor vehicle registrations (Nov. 91)† (a) | -10.5 | -13.2 | -10.0 | -12.8 | 9.9 | -15.0 | -9.9 | -21.5 | -9.6 |
| Number of dwelling unit approvals (Oct. 91) | 3.8 | 12.8 | 45.0 | -6.7 | 15.0 | -3.6 | -29.6 | 42.3 | 15.7 |
| Value of total building work done (June qtr 91) | -8.3 | -28.6 | 4.7 | -11.4 | -27.9 | -0.5 | 39.9 | 18.1 | -13.2 |
| Employed persons (Nov. 91)* | -2.0 | -4.5 | 0.1 | -3.1 | 0.0 | -4.6 | -3.4 | 1.0 | -2.3 |
| Capital city consumer price index (Sept. qtr 91) | 2.8 | 3.9 | 3.3 | 4.1 | 1.9 | 3.6 | 3.3 | 3.7 | 3.3 |
| Average weekly earnings (full- time adult ordinary time) (Aug. 91) | 5.1 | 4.3 | 4.3 | 5.6 | 6.9 | 4.1 | 6.9 | 4.9 | 4.9 |
| Population (June 91) | 1.3 | 1.1 | 2.2 | 1.2 | 2.0 | 0.9 | 1.0 | 2.9 | 1.5 |
| Room nights in licensed hotels and motels, etc. (June qtr 91) | -1.9 | -1.4 | 7.8 | -4.5 | -2.2 | 2.6 | -4.6 | -7.8 | 0.1 |

* Seasonally adjusted except for NT and ACT. † Seasonally adjusted except for Tas., NT and ACT.
 (a) Refer to footnote (e) on next page.

Key national indicators – consolidated to 7 January 1992

| | | Period | Latest figure available | | Percentage change (a) on | | |
|--|------------------|-------------|-------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------|-------|
| | | | Original | Seasonally adjusted | Previous period | Corresponding period last year | |
| National production | | | | | | | |
| Gross domestic product | — current prices | \$m | Sept. qtr 91 | 94,473 | 94,688 | 1.0 | 0.1 |
| | — 1984-85 prices | | | 62,900 | 63,396 | -0.3 | -1.9 |
| Industrial activity | | | | | | | |
| New capital expenditure | — current prices | \$m | Sept. qtr 91 | 6,231 | 6,475 | -0.4 | -15.3 |
| | — 1984-85 prices | | | 4,817 | 5,012 | 0.5 | -13.5 |
| Expected new capital expenditure | | | Three months to Dec. 91 | 7,056 | n.a. | n.a. | n.a. |
| Retail turnover | — current prices | " | Oct. 91 | 7,908.7 | 7,803.5 | 2.1 | 5.7 |
| | — 1984-85 prices | " | Sept. qtr 91 | 14,915.3 | 15,486.9 | 2.9 | 0.2 |
| New motor vehicle registrations (e) | | no. | Nov. 91 | 41,815 | 42,074 | 5.2 | -9.6 |
| Dwelling unit approvals (f) | | | Oct. 91 | 13,127 | 11,906 | -2.4 | 13.3 |
| Value of all building approvals (f) | | \$m | | 2,046 | 1,874 | 15.9 | 4.2 |
| Value of total building work done | — current prices | " | June qtr 91 | 6,253 | 6,264 | -5.1 | -13.2 |
| | — 1984-85 prices | " | | 3,963 | 3,970 | -4.7 | -13.3 |
| Manufacturers' sales | — current prices | " | Sept. qtr 91 | 36,453 | 35,729 | 2.6 | -0.3 |
| | — 1984-85 prices | " | | 25,305 | 24,860 | 2.8 | -0.8 |
| Expected manufacturers' sales | | " | Three months to Dec. 91 | 37,652 | n.a. | n.a. | -5.0 |
| Labour | | | | | | | |
| Employed persons | | '000 | Nov. 91 | 7,674.1 | 7,650.1 | -0.5 | -2.3 |
| Unemployment rate † | | % | " | 9.6 | 10.5 | 0.5 | 2.4 |
| Participation rate † | | " | " | 62.6 | 63.0 | -0.1 | -0.9 |
| Job vacancies (g) | | '000 | Aug. 91 | 25.6 | 25.1 | -2.1 | -46.9 |
| Average weekly overtime per employee (g) | | hours | " | 1.07 | 1.11 | -1.0 | -12.2 |
| Prices, profits and wages | | | | | | | |
| Consumer price index | 1980-81 = 100.0 | | Sept. qtr 91 | 215.7 | n.a. | 0.6 | 3.3 |
| Price index of materials used in manufacturing industries | 1984-85 = 100.0 | | Oct. 91 | 118.7 | n.a. | 0.3 | -11.5 |
| Price index of articles produced by manufacturing industry | 1988-89 = 100.0 | | Oct. 91 | 111.2 | n.a. | 0.1 | -1.0 |
| Company profits before income tax | | \$m | Sept. qtr 91 | 2,982 | 2,841 | 21.2 | -17.9 |
| Average weekly earnings (Full-time adults; ordinary time) | | \$ | Aug. 91 | 567.70 | n.a. | 1.2 | 4.9 |
| Interest rates (b) (monthly average) | | | | | | | |
| 90-day bank bills † | | % per annum | Oct. 91 | 8.70 | n.a. | -0.85 | -4.10 |
| 10-year Treasury bonds † | | | | 9.80 | n.a. | -0.50 | -3.55 |
| Balance of payments | | | | | | | |
| Exports of merchandise | | \$m | Nov. 91 | 4,563 | 4,557 | 6.4 | 4.3 |
| Imports of merchandise | | " | " | 4,613 | 4,585 | 9.6 | 7.9 |
| Balance on merchandise trade (c) | | " | " | -50 | -28 | n.a. | n.a. |
| Balance of goods and services (c) | | " | " | -173 | -243 | -219.7 | -62.0 |
| Balance on current account (c) | | " | " | -1,556 | -1,692 | -23.2 | -5.2 |
| Terms of trade (d) | 1984-85 = 100.0 | | Sept. qtr 91 | n.a. | 99.7 | -0.7 | -4.6 |
| Foreign investment | | | | | | | |
| Net foreign debt | | \$m | 30 Sept. 91 | 133,480 | n.a. | -1.6 | 3.5 |
| Net foreign liabilities | | | | 182,282 | n.a. | 2.8 | 7.1 |
| Exchange rates (monthly average) | | | | | | | |
| SUS | per SA | | Nov. 91 | 0.7864 | n.a. | -0.9 | 1.5 |
| Trade weighted index | May 1970 = 100.0 | | " | 59.0 | n.a. | -2.0 | 5.0 |
| Other indicators | | | | | | | |
| Population (resident at end of qtr) | | million | June 91 | 17.3 | n.a. | 0.3 | 1.5 |
| Overseas visitor arrivals | | '000 | Oct. 91 | 216 | 215 | -4.3 | 14.5 |

(a) Based on seasonally adjusted figures where available. (b) Source: Reserve Bank of Australia. (c) For percentage changes, a minus sign indicates an increase in the deficit; no sign means a decrease in the deficit or an increase in the surplus. (d) The ratio of the price of goods and services for exports to that for imports. (e) November 1991 is not strictly comparable with November 1990 due to the introduction by motor vehicle registration authorities of a more accurate identification and classification system. (f) Later figures expected to be released Wednesday, 8 January 1992. (g) Later figures expected to be released Thursday, 9 January 1992.

NOTES: † = change is shown in terms of percentage points. n.a. = not available.

Figures have been taken from a variety of ABS publications. Copies may be obtained from Information Services (see page 14).

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